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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 1, 1941.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Tuesday, July 1, 1941. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
Mr. Bruce,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
also H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary

and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. HEARING ON THE QUESTION OF MARBLE FOR THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

ANNEX: In accordance with the request made by Hon. Sam Hobbs, House of Representatives, that Members of Congress be given an opportunity to be heard on the question of marble for the exterior of the Federal Reserve Board Annex, the Hearing took place, and the following were present and testified.

Representative Sam Hobbs, of Alabama,
Representative M. C. Tarver, of Georgia,
Representative Lawrence Lewis, of Colorado
Representative Paul Brown, of Georgia,
Representative John S. Gibson, of Georgia.
Senator George D. Aiken, of Vermont.
Mr. Carey Sutlive, representing Senator George, of Georgia.
Miss Irene Lewis, representing Rep. Dewey Short, of Missouri
Mr. Ford, representing Rep. Stephen Pace, of Georgia.
Mr. Siegel, representing the Marble Companies,
with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia filed a letter in support of marble, and expressing his regret at being unable to be present (Exhibit A)

Congressman Hobbs spoke at length in support of marble, and in general

all the other witnesses reaffirmed his views and urged the use of it, since in their opinion marble was considered to be the most appropriate for it, especially in view of the fact that the main building of the Federal Reserve Board is in marble. Congressman Hobbs stated that, when the buildings were built in the Triangle south of Pennsylvania Avenue, it was agreed among Members of Congress that since limestone was used for those buildings, future buildings west of Seventeenth Street and north of Constitution Avenue should be in marble. How, Judge Hobbs, said, there are 71 Members of Congress representing marble districts in all parts of the United States who would like to see that agreement carried out. Judge Hobbs spoke of the interest of Members of Congress in making the National Capital beautiful, and in his opinion to do it would be through marble buildings.

After the Hearing (which lasted an hour and was reported verbatim), the Commission considered the subject carefully and reviewed the action taken at the meeting on September 10, 1940, when "The Commission recommended the use of limestone for the building, for, while the building will be occupied by offices of the Federal Reserve Board, it will be part of a composition more particularly related to the new War Department Building, which is being faced with limestone." (Dr. Cret, architect of the Federal Reserve Board Annex, was not present during this discussion, as he did not attend the morning session)

Mr. Lamb and Mr. Holabird emphasized the fact that it is more important that that building be in harmony with the other buildings on the square fronting the new War Department Building than be related to some building next to it across C Street; if that were another Department building there would be no question about that. The Annex will be seen most decidedly from the big square; it belongs to the square and should be in harmony with it.

The Commission concurred in this. On the east side of the square is the new Interior Department building, in limestone, and in due time there will be a building in limestone on the north side of the square.

It was pointed out that Dr. Cret submitted plans for a limestone building in September, 1940, and the Commission of Fine Arts approved the use of limestone accordingly. The Commission saw no reason for changing the decision made last September that limestone be used. The Chairman notified the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board to that effect (Exhibit B), and a copy of the letter was sent to each of the Congressmen and their representatives who testified (Exhibit C).

3. PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BY GILBERT STUART: The Chairman reported with regard to the portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart that has been offered to the White House by an unknown donor, through Nejib Hekimian of Washington, that President Roosevelt has accepted the offer, which information was conveyed by letter from Mr. H. G. Crim, Chief Usher, as follows:

The White House
Washington

June 25, 1941.

My dear Major Clarke:

I am very happy to learn from your letter dated June 16, 1941, that the White House is about to receive an original Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington.

The President has authorized me to state that he will accept the portrait on behalf of the United States, on a date yet to be determined. Presentation ceremonies will in all probability be held in the Blue Parlor of the White House, and it is hoped that The Commission of Fine Arts, the Special Committee on the White House, and the donor of the portrait can all be present on that occasion.

Upon completion of final arrangements you will be further advised.

Respectfully yours,
H. G. Crim, Chief Usher.

The Chairman said on receipt of the letter he wrote to Mr. Crim suggesting that Mr. David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art,

assist in securing an appropriate frame and placing the portrait in the Blue Room (Exhibit D), and that Mr. Crim replied by letter of June 27th, approving the suggestion, as follows:

The White House
Washington

June 27, 1941.

My dear Major Clarke:

With reference to your letter of June 27, 1941, the matter of an acceptable frame on the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington, is, to my mind, one for the members of the Commission of Fine Arts to pass on. I therefore take the liberty of stating that in this matter your judgment is our judgment.

We will be very happy to avail ourselves of the services of Hon. David Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art, in selecting the exact spot to hang the portrait.

Very sincerely yours,
H. G. Crim,
Chief Usher.

The Commission approved the placing of the portrait in the Blue Room of the White House, and concurred in the suggestion of the Chairman that Mr. Finley assist in the matter of a new frame and in selecting the location in the Blue Room for it. Mr. Finley expressed his willingness to help in this matter (Exhibit D-1)

4. RELOCATION OF THE MCMILLAN FOUNTAIN: Under date of June 26, 1941, the following letter was received from Mr. F. F. Gillen, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Parks:

My dear Mr. Clarke:

This office is pleased to advise that the location recommended in West Potomac Park for the relocation of the McMillan Fountain has been approved by the Interior Department subject, of course, to the U. S. Engineer Office bearing the costs of relocation and development of the new site.

Attached is a print of the preliminary site plan of the proposed relocation. When a detailed survey of the area has been made by the U. S. Engineer Office, this Service will prepare the site plan.

Also attached is a copy of a letter constituting approval of the new location by the Interior Department.

Very truly yours,
F.F.Gillen,
Acting Superintendent

The Chairman said the fountain would be a few hundred feet south of the District of Columbia War Memorial (Band Stand) south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Basin, on what is known as Magnolia Avenue.

The Commission felt the fountain would be appropriately relocated on the proposed site. The Commission, accordingly, approved the location, with the understanding that a landscape plan will be submitted (Exhibit E)

5. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE SCULPTURE. The Chairman presented the following letter received from Mr. F. F. Gillen, Acting Superintendent of the Office of National Capital Parks:

June 24, 1941.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

You will, no doubt, recall that the Commission of Fine Arts has approved the completion in bronze of the Equestrian Groups for the Arlington Memorial Bridge and Parkway Approach.

Mr. Fraser is now under contract to complete his Groups in bronze, but Mr. Friedlander has delayed entering into a contract with us for his Groups, due to unsatisfactory arrangements regarding his bond.

We have been in communication with Piccirilli Brothers, 467 East 142d Street, New York City, and they have informed us that they would be willing to carry the work through to completion. The work would involve the making of full-size models from Mr. Friedlander's half-size models, with the necessary changes to fit the Groups to bronze, the casting in bronze, and the setting.

Information is requested as to whether you believe Piccirilli Brothers could complete the work in a satisfactory manner to secure the results desired.

Sincerely yours,
F. F. Gillen.

The Chairman said he talked with Mr. Manship concerning this matter, and that they had agreed that Piccirilli Brothers should be competent to do the work as above suggested; Mr. Gillen was informed accordingly. Mr. Manship made the following statement expressing his position with reference to the matter:

"I wish to make my position clear in the matter of the ability of Piccirilli Brothers to enlarge sculpture to full size from a one-half size model; this I believe them to be able to do adequately on the basis of past performance. The question is asked as a hypothetical one and there is no question of professional ethics involved."

The Commission concurred in the action of the Chairman and Mr. Manship in this matter. The Commission agreed that since Mr. Fraser has entered into a contract for completing his groups, there should be no delay in completing the "Friedlander Groups". It was pointed out that the funds secured for this statutory might be withdrawn if not used within a reasonable time, and this would be most regrettable.

6. APARTMENT BUILDING AT 20th and E Streets, N.W.: The Chairman presented the following letter received from Hon. F. A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, protesting against the erection of the proposed apartment building at 20th and E Streets, N.W. (Square 104):

June 27, 1941

My dear Mr. Clarke:

As a private citizen, as well as in my capacity of Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, I venture to protest against the acceptance by your Commission of the plans submitted by an architect on behalf of the owners of the corner of E Street and 20th Street. The basis of my protest is as follows:

1. The purpose of the Shipstead Act was to protect Government properties from architectural defacement or injury by the character of buildings adjacent or opposite its own property
2. Mr. Aubinoe, the owner of the southeast corner of Square 104, is fully aware, or should be at once informed if unaware, that the Federal Government has made an elaborate plan for the development of the rectangle west of 17th and south of E and F Streets. Not only have these plans been published, but by Acts of Congress the boundaries of this proposed development have been explicitly defined by "taking lines". Any purchaser buying inside these lines, or proposing to build either facing or within these lines, does so at his own inconvenience or peril. In this case, the purchaser of the aforesaid corner has been fully aware that the Government has already acquired approximately two-thirds of the south half of Square 104. To permit Mr. Aubinoe to erect an 8-story building on this corner, no matter how good, would violate the principles of the Shipstead Act and make it practically impossible for the Government to carry out a suitable plan, which contemplates the development of the entire E Street frontage of the Square.
3. Lastly, I propose to recommend that a Government agency make an offer to Mr. Aubinoe within the next 30 days in order to save the Federal Government the additional expense of acquiring improved property.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederic A. Delano, Chairman.

The Chairman stated that, pursuant to notice sent to the Building Inspector that the preliminary plans were approved subject to the submission of working drawings and sample of materials to be used, the applicant had on June 2, 1941, through the Building Inspector (Application No. 915) submitted a complete set of working drawings and samples of material for the building and they were found to be satisfactory.

The Commission considered the matter and decided that while the applicant is within his rights to erect the building, so long as he owns the property, it would nevertheless be unfortunate to allow the erection of the building since the Government proposes to buy the site, which it was noted is on the north side of the square adjacent to the new War Department building. Approval of the plans was therefore withheld, and a letter was sent to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, accordingly, and with the request that time be allowed the Government to acquire the land on which it was proposed to build the apartment (Exhibit F)

7. CHINA SERVICE MEDAL: The Chairman presented the following letter received from the Navy Department, with designs for the Chinese Service Medal:

Navy Department
Bureau of Navigation
Washington

June 11, 1941

Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated May 26, 1941, advising this Bureau that the model of the design for the new China Service Medal has been disapproved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

On the possibility that one of the other designs as submitted in response to the request for bids for a design for the medal may meet the Commission's standards, the twenty-eight designs originally submitted are forwarded for review.

It will be appreciated if the Commission of Fine Arts will advise this Department as to whether any one of these designs is acceptable and recommended for the obverse of the China Service Medal.

If none of these designs are acceptable to the Commission, the latter's advice is requested as to the matter to be included in the specifications covering new bids for a design for this medal.

Sincerely yours,

C. W. Nimitz, Rear Admiral, USN.,
Chief of Bureau

The designs were given careful consideration by Mr. Manship on Monday afternoon, at which time, he said, he had a talk with Commander Taylor of the Navy Department concerning them; and that in response to an inquiry concerning limitations in matters of design Commander Taylor had stated that--

An eagle for the obverse would be unacceptable since a standard die showing an eagle is used by the Navy Department for the reverse;

A pagoda would be ruled out because the Chinese Embassy has objected to its use because of its religious significance;

A dragon might be permissible if used as a secondary element; a dragon is more than an animal to the Chinese since it has a religious connection. If the Commission should select a design showing a dragon it would be submitted to the Department of State for submission to the Chinese Embassy for a final decision in the matter.

After an inspection of the designs by the Commission, on the recommendation of Mr. Manship design No.16 was selected. This design portrays an American Marine with a dragon in the background. The Commission recommended acceptance of the design by the Navy Department, with the understanding that a model of it would be submitted (Exhibit G)

8. SEAL FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: Mr. Manship submitted several sketches of a proposed seal for the Commission. One showing the Washington Monument was unanimously chosen, and Mr. Manship said he would make a model of the design and submit it at a future meeting of the Commission.

9. MURAL PAINTINGS FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: Under date of June 17, 1941, the Section of Fine Arts, Public Buildings Administration, submitted the following letter with photographs of revised designs by Ben Shahn for mural paintings in the Social Security Building:

June 17, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Reference is made to the full size cartoons, photographs of which are attached, of the murals by Mr. Ben Shahn for the Social Security Building.

The Commission of Fine Arts gave a report to the Section on the preliminary sketches on November 14, 1940, and it will be appreciated if the comments and advice of the Commission may be forwarded to the Section on the cartoons.

Cordially yours,

Edward B. Rowan, Assistant Chief,
Section of Fine Arts.

The Chairman referred the letter and photographs to Mr. Poor for report, and Mr. Poor reported as follows:

New City, New York
June 30, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I think the only way in which I can be of any constructive help in relation to matters which are carried over from former meetings of the Commission is just to give my opinion starting fresh - - which I will attempt to do.

I think these Shahn murals are very powerful, very poignant, and in their idiom, both as regards subject matter and artistic method, extremely present day and of the moment. I think it is rare and lucky that things so essentially present day should go into a building devoted to something so essentially of today as Social Security. They are at the opposite pole from the heroic "cape slinging" murals and for that we can be thankful.

I would not be expressing myself honestly if I did not at the same time confess that they are also in many ways distressingly drab and built up out of strangely fotografic and pieced-together details not always organically related. But this very quality does undoubtedly contribute in large part to their force and their poignancy. It is not unusual that a man's weakness is also his strength and that is certainly true here. This being so, I feel it's rather pointless to find much fault with 'scale' and other such details.

I know from seeing Mr. Shahn's murals in the Bronx post office that he does put beautiful painting into them, and that he has a fine sense of his surface so that even if the figures seem overly large, they will not destroy the wall. Other than that, in these corridors there is no architecture, so nothing to worry about on that score.

All these judgments are made from studying the fotografis of the sketches and from my knowledge of Mr. Shahn's other mural work.

About the cartoons, I must say that they are purely linear and dead enlargements of the sketches, and certainly have no development over the sketches. I should think that for his own satisfaction, and to get a more positive and active sense of their relation to their spaces, Mr. Shahn would want to carry them further, while they are still flexible and open to change.

However, if he feels sure enough of his sketches to want to go ahead with the painting, I would certainly say let him go, for I don't think anything is gained by interfering with a man's own way of working, and moreover, the technique of tempera on a wall adapts itself to much changing and working over.

I would suggest, Mr. Clarke, that there are such apparently contradictory things in this report that I think it is wise to use it as a whole, as parts by themselves might convey a meaning I do not intend."

Sincerely yours,
Henry V. Poor.

The Commission thought the report by Mr. Poor to be very good.

Mr. Bruce said he was of the opinion that if Mr. Shahn wants to go ahead with the project he should be allowed to do so. Also Mr. Bruce said that Mr. Shahn proposes to make full sized cartoons in color and set them in place, where the Commission of Fine Arts could see them.

After discussion it was decided to approve the report by Mr. Poor and to accept Mr. Bruce's offer to let the Commission see the full sized cartoons in color before final execution of the paintings by Mr. Shahn (Exhibit H).

10. ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BUILDING: Mr. Edwin Olsen submitted in behalf of Eggers and Higgins, architects, of New York City, plans for the proposed Medical Library and Museum Building that has been authorized by Act of Congress, approved June 15, 1938 (52 Stat.p.684), as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to construct in the District of Columbia a building with the utilities, accessories, and appurtenances thereto to replace the present Army Medical Library and Museum Building now located in the District of Columbia: Provided, That the advice of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission as to the selection of the site be requested before construction herein authorized shall begin; Provided further, That the total cost of the construction hereby authorized shall not exceed the sum of \$3,750,000.

Mr. Olsen said he presented the plans to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission at a recent meeting. After general discussion of the plans it was thought desirable to have Mr. Nolen explain the action of that Commission pertaining to them. This he did, stating that at a meeting held June 27th it had been agreed that the building should be located on the square east of the Folger Library. Subsequently, he said, he met with the Coordinating Committee to discuss details of street and avenue layout in the East Capitol Street area, with the result that the Committee recommended closing Fifth Street for two-way traffic and instead

to keep Fourth and Sixth Streets open, each for traffic in one direction.

This scheme contemplates widening Fourth and Sixth Streets to 100 feet each, an increase of 20 feet. Mr. Nolen said this change in the

---Clarke-Downer---East Capitol Street Plan has not as yet been approved by the Park and Planning Commission, since it will first be submitted to the Public Roads Administration and by that "bureau" referred to Mr. Clarke and to Mr. Downer. Mr. Clarke thought the suggested change had real merit and deserved careful consideration. However, Mr. Clarke protested against placing the Army Medical Library and Museum building, which is to be 280 feet long, 205 feet wide and 60 feet high, in a square that is too small; it was noted that this building would come almost to the sidewalk at the east and west ends. Mr. Wm. T. Partridge, Consulting Architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, submitted plot plans and models showing the building with reference to the location under consideration.

Mr. Olsen said that the Surgeon General of the Army, Major General James C. Magee, refused to allow the architects to shorten the building. A suggestion made to turn the building so that the shorter facade would be on East Capitol Street, with the building facing Third or Fourth Streets, did not seem practicable, since it involved not only closing A Street, Southeast, but also the purchase of an additional row of lots in the square south of A Street.

The Commission agreed that the building should be in marble, as other public and semi public buildings to face East Capitol Street. The Commission thought the design rather plain and that the building should have more sculptural embellishment. The design was regarded acceptable but approval was withheld pending settlement of the question of exact location on East Capitol Street. (Exhibit I and I-1). (It was suggested a joint session be held with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to consider this matter and August 1st has been agreed upon for that meeting)

11. SHIPSTEAD LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS: The secretary reported that Mr. Lamb has examined the submissions by the Building Inspector. Thereupon on the recommendation of Mr. Lamb,-

- (a) The Commission approved a design for a residence at 1759 Poplar Lane, N.W. (Application No.924)
- (b) The Commission approved a design for a residence at 1819 Quincy Street, N.W. (Application No.925)
- (c) The Commission requested an elevation and certain changes in design for a store building at 1305 E Street (Application No.923) with request for resubmission of the design.
- (d) The Commission disapproved a design for an apartment house, submitted by Joseph Abel, architect, for erection at Fourth and E Streets, N.W., adjacent to Judiciary Square and the new courts buildings.

12. REVISED MODEL FOR EAGLE, SOCIAL SECURITY BUILDING: The Commission inspected a revised model for the two eagles to be at the east and west ends of the parapet facing Independence Avenue of the Social Security Building. The model was revised by the sculptor, Heinz Warnéke, for an eagle to be 8 feet high. The Commission approved the model (Exhibit J)

13. CERAMICS FOR THE MUNICIPAL CENTER: The Chairman called attention to criticisms, that have appeared in Washington newspapers concerning the ceramic by Waylande Gregory in the court of the Municipal Center building, that the section of the mural devoted to the Police Department shows policemen in an abusive and violent attitude towards "criminals", The mural shows policemen in the act of grabbing men by the neck and in the act of hitting them with a club. Mr. Wyeth, the Municipal Architect, had asked that the Commission see the ceramics; the other of the two being by Hildreth Miere, illustrating public health and social service. Each of the murals is about 80 feet long and 8 feet high.

Mr. Manship reported that yesterday afternoon he and Mr. Wyeth and Mr. Caenmerer went to the Municipal Center Building and saw the ceramics.

and that he was well pleased with them.

Mr. Manship said the ceramic by Waylande Gregory is superb, simple in its design, vigorous in action and beautiful in its color scheme; he considered it to be one of the very best ceramics done in recent years, and any adverse criticism was due to lack of understanding of the real duty of a policeman, that is to keep order.

The other members of the Commission expressed the desire to see the ceramics at the next meeting, and in the meantime it was suggested a letter be sent to Mr. Wyeth concurring in the report by Mr. Manship in this matter (Exhibit K).

14. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDINGS: Under date of June 25, 1941, Mr. Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, submitted the following letter; to the Chairman:

Dear Sir:

Referring to my letter to you of June 23 relative to the proposed temporary office building which it is desired to erect south of the Munitions Building, for your further information there are given below some excerpts from a letter of the Secretary of War to the Administrator of the Federal Works Agency:

'As a result of the President's declaration of the national emergency, the War Department has taken a number of steps to expedite the very great amount of work which it is now called upon to do. It has become apparent that the Department can no longer perform its functions either satisfactorily or expeditiously in its present crowded and unhealthy conditions. I feel that the time has arrived when peace-time considerations can no longer be permitted to interfere with placing War Department construction on land conveniently located to the other buildings and activities of the Department. Due to the very limited usable space areas in the new War Department building, it will afford very little relief to the pressure for additional space.

'On July 1, 1941, it is estimated the War Department will require 740,000 square feet of space in addition to all space now occupied. The new building will make available 250,000 square feet, but when the building at First and M Streets, N.E., is vacated and the space in the new building is utilized, there will still remain a net shortage of 570,000 square feet, and by next fall this figure will again be increased. Any additional space which the Department is required to vacate will, of course, increase the shortage figure.

'The Secretary has further suggested in his letter that from funds now available 'and those which may be secured * * from Congress' some additional space should be furnished which includes the following:

- ' a. Three buildings, totaling 109,000 square feet, to be placed west of the new War Department building.
- b. One building of 75,000 square feet, to be placed at 26th Street, N.W., west of the Naval Hospital.
- c. One building of three stories, inclosing 150,000 square feet, to be erected in the rear of the Munitions Building for parking, or, if this building is not approved, then erect one building of 150,000 square feet west of the Munitions Building."

The Commission discussed the matter with Mr. Simon. A copy of a letter dated June 27th addressed to Mr. Simon by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, protesting against the erection of a building south of the Munitions Building, and against the erection of buildings in park areas such as near the Lincoln Memorial (Exhibit L). The Commission concurred fully in that letter.

The Commission recognized the need for additional office buildings during this emergency period, but felt park and recreational areas should not be sacrificed for them; that there is much unused land in the District of Columbia that could be made available for temporary office buildings if only some time is given to inspect such sites. The Commission interposed no objection to the erection of temporary buildings for the War Department listed as item "a" and "b", as above mentioned (Exhibit L-1).

15. H. R. 5172. On June 30th, Hon. Fritz G. Lanham, Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, House of Representatives, submitted with request for a report a copy of H.R.5172, " A bill to create a Commission to investigate and report to the Congress the necessity, practicability, and feasibility of constructing a vehicular crossing or crossings of the Potomac River between the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia,---".

The Commission noted that the bill was similar to a bill introduced some months ago to provide for a new bridge across the Potomac, which was favored. The Commission again recognized the great need for improved traffic facilities between the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia, and favored the enactment of this bill if it meets with the approval of Congress. A report was sent to Congressman Lanham accordingly (Exhibit M).

16. HERALDRY IN AMERICA: The Commission expressed appreciation of the book Heraldry in America by A. Zieber, presented by Bailey, Banks and Biddle, of Philadelphia (Exhibit N).

17. FREER GALLERY OF ART: Mr. Lodge, Curator of the Freer Gallery, had asked that the Commission inspect certain works of art proposed for purchase, but due to the lateness of the hour the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

COPY

UNITED STATES SENATE

June 27, 1941.

Honorable Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am enclosing a telegram that is self-explanatory that I have received from the Georgia Marble Company.

I am, of course, tremendously interested in marble being used in the Federal Reserve Annex and I intend to be present at the meeting on Tuesday next.

As it is possible that I will be engaged in a committee meeting at that time, I wanted to let you know of my interest in the use of marble in the construction of this building and express the hope that this matter will receive every consideration. It is, of course, unnecessary for me to outline the advantages of marble over other building materials as I know you have all this information at hand.

I assure you that every consideration accorded in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. B. Russell,

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

June 27, 1901

Honorable Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am enclosing a telegram that is self-explanatory
that I have received from the Georgia Marble Company.

I am, of course, tremendously interested in marble
being used in the Federal Reserve Bank and I intend to be
present at the meeting on Tuesday next.

As it is possible that I will be engaged in a committee
meeting at that time, I wanted to let you know of my interest
in the use of marble in the construction of this building and express
the hope that this matter will receive every consideration. It
is, of course, unnecessary for me to outline the advantages of
marble over other building materials as I know you have all this
information at hand.

I assure you that every consideration possible in this
matter will be solicited.

Sincerely,
Gilmore D. Clarke

G. D. Clarke

Enclosed

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts

Washington

July 8, 1941.

Dear Sirs:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on July 1, 1941, the Commission heard the testimony of several Members of Congress and their representatives in favor of the use of marble for the exterior of the proposed Federal Reserve Board Annex, north of C Street.

After the Hearing the Commission considered this matter again, reviewing in particular the action taken at the meeting of the Commission held on September 10, 1940, when

"The Commission approved the use of limestone for the building, for, while the building will be occupied by offices of the Federal Reserve Board, it will be part of a composition more particularly related to the new War Department Building, which is being faced with limestone."

The members of the Commission again emphasized the fact that it is more important that the Federal Reserve Annex be in harmony with the new War Department Building, and other buildings to be erected on the remaining two sides of the Square, than to be related to the Federal Reserve Building next to it across C Street. The principal view of the Annex will be from the Square, and in the judgment of the Commission of Fine Arts it belongs to the Square and should be in complete harmony with the other structures surrounding it.

The Commission also recalled that when the architect, Paul P. Cret, submitted the plans at the meeting held on September 10,

EXHIBIT B

The University of Chicago is a private, non-profit, research-oriented institution of higher learning. It is one of the leading universities in the United States, and is known for its commitment to academic excellence and its contributions to the advancement of knowledge in various fields. The university's history is marked by a long tradition of scholarship and innovation, and it continues to be a center of intellectual activity and discovery.

1950-1951

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1940, he presented a memorandum stating that it is "the intention of the architect to have this building constructed of limestone to conform to the policy for the recent government buildings" in this area.

The members of the Commission, except Mr. Cret who did not vote on this matter, have always been and still are unanimous in their opinion concerning the use of limestone for the Federal Reserve Board Annex.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman.

The Honorable

The Board of Governors of the
Federal Reserve System,

Washington, D.C.

COPY

July 8, 1941.

My dear Congressman Hobbs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 1, 1941, gave careful consideration to the remarks of the several Members of Congress and their representatives who appeared before them to advocate the use of marble for the proposed Federal Reserve Board Annex. The Chairman has written a letter to the Federal Reserve Board setting forth the action taken by the Commission subsequent to the meeting with the Members of Congress, and I attach for your information a copy of this letter.

The Commission were pleased to meet with the Members of Congress interested in the use of marble for the Federal Reserve Board Annex and hope that their decision to use limestone will be thoroughly justified by the results over a long period of years.

The Commission learned recently that the Army intends to erect a new building for a Medical Library and Museum on East Capitol Street, just east of the Folger Library. The Commission have stipulated the use of marble for all new buildings which front on this important easterly approach to the Capitol.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

GILMORE D. CLARKE,

Chairman.

Hon. Sam Hobbs,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C

The Commission of Fine Arts

Washington

July 8, 1941.

Dear Sirs:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on July 1, 1941, the Commission heard the testimony of several Members of Congress and their representatives in favor of the use of marble for the exterior of the proposed Federal Reserve Board Annex, north of C Street.

After the Hearing the Commission considered this matter again, reviewing in particular the action taken at the meeting of the Commission held on September 10, 1940, when

"The Commission approved the use of limestone for the building, for, while the building will be occupied by offices of the Federal Reserve Board, it will be part of a composition more particularly related to the new War Department Building, which is being faced with limestone."

The members of the Commission again emphasized the fact that it is more important that the Federal Reserve Annex be in harmony with the new War Department Building, and other buildings to be erected on the remaining two sides of the Square, than to be related to the Federal Reserve Building next to it across C Street. The principal view of the Annex will be from the Square, and in the judgment of the Commission of Fine Arts it belongs to the Square and should be in complete harmony with the other structures surrounding it.

The Commission also recalled that when the architect, Paul P. Cret, submitted the plans at the meeting held on September 10, 1940, he presented a memorandum stating that it is "the intention of the architect to have this building constructed of limestone to conform to the policy for the recent government buildings" in this area.

The members of the Commission, except Mr. Cret who did not vote on this matter, have always been and still are unanimous in their opinion concerning the use of limestone for the Federal Reserve Board Annex.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

The Honorable

The Board of Governors of the
Federal Reserve System,

Washington, D. C.

COPY

June 27, 1941.

Dear Mr. Crim:

I was very happy to receive your letter of June 25th, advising that the President will accept, on behalf of the United States, the portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, which an unknown donor has offered. I have taken the liberty of sending to Mr. Nejib Hekimian, representing the donor, a copy of your letter to me, stating that the President has acted favorably with respect to this very generous offer on the part of one of his clients.

I think I wrote you in my last letter that the donor wishes to have the portrait placed in a more appropriate and acceptable frame, similar in character to the frame on one of the Gilbert Stuart's in the Mellon Collection. He would therefore like to know in advance that the gift is acceptable, in order that arrangements may be made to have the new frame made.

Incidentally, Mr. David Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art and a member of the Special Committee on the White House, has written to me to say that when the portrait is received he will be very happy to advise with you concerning the exact location for it over the mantel piece in the Blue Room.

On behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts and the Special Committee on the White House, I accept the kind invitation extended to be present at the presentation ceremonies to be held in the Blue Room at a date to be determined later.

Cordially and respectfully, yours,

Hon. H. G. Crim,
Chief Usher,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

GILMORE D. CLARKE,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT D

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{4}$$

1970-1971

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered.

COPY

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1941.

Dear Major Clarke:

I have your letter of June 28th with the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Grim, dated June 27th, regarding the matter of an acceptable frame on the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington which is being presented to the White House.

I shall write to Mr. Hekimian, as you suggest, and ask him to give me an opportunity of passing on the type of frame to be selected by the donor for the Washington portrait. I will be glad to give any assistance I can in hanging the portrait when it has been received in the White House.

Sincerely yours,

David Finley,

Director.

Major Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D-1

COPY

July 8, 1941

My dear Mr. Gillen:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 1, 1941, were well pleased with the location mentioned in your letter of June 26th for the McMillan Fountain, namely, "a site in the grove south of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and approximately 850 feet west of the District of Columbia World War Memorial." The location was approved with the understanding that a detailed landscape plan for the site will be submitted to the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. F. F. Gillen,
Acting Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT E

1911, 1912

1911, 1912

The United States of America, as a result of the

July 1, 1911, when the United States of America

in your letter of June 28, 1911, the United States of America

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Pool and also in the same month of the United States of America

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For the United States of America

United States of America

United States of America

United States of America

Hon. J. E. Smith,
Acting Secretary,
National Legal Service,
National Legal Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

United States of America

COPY

The Commission of Fine Arts
Washington

July 1, 1941.

Dear Sirs:

Some time ago the Building Inspector of the District of Columbia submitted plans to the Commission of Fine Arts for an apartment house proposed to be erected on the corner of Twentieth and E Streets, N.W., (Square 104). This Commission gave approval to the preliminary plans and advised the Building Inspector that this Commission would like to review the completed plans before giving final approval. We received the final plans on June 2, 1941, and we are withholding approval because we realize that the area upon which this particular apartment is to be erected is within the area which the Government of the United States proposes to purchase for public use.

In our opinion it would be most unwise for the owner of this building to begin construction operations since it would be wasteful both for him and for the Government. We fully realize, however, that the owner is within his rights and may erect a building on the premises so long as he retains title to the property. However, we hope the Commissioners of the District of Columbia may be able to prevail upon the owner of the property to delay his operations pending the time that the Government may take appropriate action to acquire this particular piece of property.

I attach herewith a copy of a letter on the subject that I received on June 27th from the Honorable Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT F

1. Introduction

2. Background

3. Objectives of the Study

4. Methodology

5. Results and Discussion

6. Conclusion

7. References

8. Appendix

9. Acknowledgments

10. Contact Information

11. Disclaimer

12. Glossary

13. Bibliography

14. Index

15. Table of Contents

16. Executive Summary

17. Abstract

18. Introduction

19. Objectives

20. Methodology

21. Results

22. Discussion

23. Conclusion

24. References

25. Appendix

26. Acknowledgments

COPY

July 2, 1941.

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 1, 1941, gave careful consideration to the designs you resubmitted with your letter of June 11th for the new China Service Medal. The designs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Paulanship, sculptor member of the Commission, who recommends the acceptance of design No.16. The Commission concur in this recommendation.

It is understood that the sculptor will be asked to submit a model of the design for submission to the Commission.

The designs are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Rear Admiral C. W. Nimitz, U.S.N.,
Chief of the Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G

July 2, 1941

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

The Commission of Arts and Letters, established on July 1, 1941, gave careful consideration to the designs you recommended with your letter of June 11th for the new China Service Medal. The designs were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Fred L. Smith, sculptor member of the Commission, who recommends the acceptance of design No. 10. The Commission concurs in this recommendation. It is understood that the sculptor will be asked to submit a model of the design for submission to the Commission. The designs are herewith returned.

For the Commission of Arts and Letters:

Respectfully,
Chairman

William L. Lawrence,

Chairman

Very truly,
Chief of the Bureau of Investigation,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

ENCLOSURE

COPY

July 2, 1941.

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The photographs of revised designs by Ben Shahn for mural paintings in the Social Security Building, which were submitted by your office on June 17th, were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Henry Varnum Poor, painter member of the Commission. Mr. Poor has reported as follows:

"I think the only way in which I can be of any constructive help in relation to matters which are carried over from former meetings of the Commission is just to give my opinion starting fresh - - which I will attempt to do.

"I think these Shahn murals are very powerful, very poignant, and in their idiom, both as regards subject matter and artistic method, extremely present day and of the moment. I think it is rare and lucky that things so essentially present day should go into a building devoted to something so essentially of today as Social Security. They are at the opposite pole from the heroic "cape slinging" murals and for that we can be thankful.

"I would not be expressing myself honestly if I did not at the same time confess that they are also in many ways distressingly drab and built up out of strangely fotografic and pieced-together details not always organically related. But this very quality does undoubtedly contribute in large part to their force and their poignancy. It is not unusual that a man's weakness is also his strength and that is certainly true here. This being so, I feel it's rather pointless to find much fault with 'scale' and other such details.

"I know from seeing Mr. Shahn's murals in the Bronx post office that he does put beautiful painting into them, and that he has a fine sense of his surface so that even if the

EXHIBIT H

4. 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673,

figures seem overly large, they will not destroy the wall. Other than that, in these corridors there is no architecture, so nothing to worry about on that score.

"All these judgments are made from studying the photographs of the sketches and from my knowledge of Mr. Shahn's other mural work.

"About the cartoons, I must say that they are purely linear and dead enlargements of the sketches, and certainly have no development over the sketches. I should think that for his own satisfaction, and to get a more positive and active sense of their relation to their spaces, Mr. Shahn would want to carry them further, while they are still flexible and open to change.

"However, if he feels sure enough of his sketches to want to go ahead with the painting, I would certainly say let him go, for I don't think anything is gained by interfering with a man's own way of working, and moreover, the technique of tempera on a wall adapts itself to much changing and working over.

"I would suggest, Mr. Clarke, that there are such apparently contradictory things in this report that I think it is wise to use it as a whole, as parts by themselves might convey a meaning I do not intend."

The Commission concur in Mr. Poor's report. It is understood that Mr. Shahn proposes to make full sized cartoons in color of his paintings and set them up in place in the Social Security building, where the Commission of Fine Arts will be given an opportunity to see them, before he proceeds to execute the paintings. This arrangement is agreeable to the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.
Federal Reserve Bank
Public Building Administration
Section of Plans and Specifications
Hon. Edward Brooke, Senator

July 2, 1941

Hon. Frederick A. Delano, Chairman
National Capital Park and Planning Commission
South Interior Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Delano:

At a meeting of this Commission held today, Mr. Olsen, representing the firm of Eggers & Higgins, Architects, presented plans and elevations for the Army Medical Library and Museum proposed to be erected on a plot of ground south of East Capitol Street and east of Third Street.

Since it has been reported to me informally that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission has already taken action in respect to the location of this proposed building, I requested Mr. Nolen to meet with us and to report upon the attitude of the Planning Commission in this matter.

Mr. Nolen gave us a complete report of the action taken by the Planning Commission at the meeting of June 27th, and then advised that he had met subsequently with the Coordinating Committee for the purpose of discussing details of street and avenue layout in the East Capitol Street area with the result that the Committee recommended closing Fifth Street for two-way traffic and instead to keep Fourth and Sixth Streets open, each for traffic in one direction. This scheme contemplates widening Fourth and Sixth Streets to 100' each, an increase of 20 feet. While I realize that this has not been presented to the planning Commission, I nevertheless appreciate that the idea has real merit and deserves full consideration.

The foregoing statements were made because the

EXHIBIT I

Washington, D.C.
South Interior Division
National Security Council
Washington, D.C.

arrangement of streets in the westerly end of the East Capitol Street area has an important bearing upon the problem of locating the Army Medical Library and Museum.

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed carefully the plans submitted by Messrs. Eggers and Higgins and spent a considerable time in review of the plot plan, aided by Mr. Partridge who kindly brought in the model he had prepared.

After due deliberation, the Commission came to the conclusion that the proposed building is much too large for the site, more particularly if the idea, with respect to the street layout as presented by the Coordinating Committee, prevails.

The Commission of Fine Arts feel that it is of vital importance not to have the new buildings along East Capitol Street appear to be crowded, more particularly since this is the first important development proposed for this replanned area. We feel that more open space for lawn and trees is required at the ends of the several buildings as viewed from East Capitol Street. It should be noted that this Army Medical Museum and Library is proposed to be set back but 40 feet from the curbs on Third and Fourth Streets as indicated on a plan prepared by Mr. Partridge, a print of which I have attached to this letter. (This plan is predicated upon the scheme for the street layout recommended by the Coordinating Committee). This, the Commission of Fine Arts believe, provides a totally inadequate setting for a building as important and as large as this structure proposed to be erected by the Army Medical Corps.

It was proposed that the building be turned so as to have the shorter facade face East Capitol Street. This would necessitate closing "A" Street south for one block and require the acquisition of one additional row of lots along the south side of "A" Street between Third and Fourth Streets. Further, such a scheme would require a restudy of the architectural design for the building to fit the new conditions imposed upon the architects, but would result in gaining a setback of the building from Third and Fourth Streets of considerably more than double the distance which obtains in the scheme presented today.

I regret that the plans for this building were such that we could not approve them. We feel thoroughly convinced, however, that an important monumental building to cost more than three and one half million dollars is deserving of an ample and dignified setting, and we trust that this idea will appeal to you and result in the reconsideration of this important problem by your Commission.

As yet, I have not notified any official of the Army of the action of this Commission, since I have not had any communications from that source. I shall, however, send a copy of this letter to Messrs. Eggers and Higgins for their information.

For the Commission of Fine Arts,

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman

PMS

July 2, 1941

Gentlemen:

The Commission was pleased to receive yor Mr. Olsen who presented plans for the proposed Army Medical Library and Museum to be located on East Capitol Street between Third and Fourth Streets in Washington. For your information, I attach a copy of a communication addressed to the Honorable Frederick A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which fully explains the action of this Commission at the meeting held today.

While the members of the Commission of Fine Arts considered the proposed design for the Army Medical Library and Museum acceptable, they desire to withhold approval of the plans until the problem with respect to the site has been worked out satisfactorily.

We regret the fact that this matter was not brought to our attention at an earlier date so that we would have had the opportunity to appraise the National Capital Park and Planning Commission of our opinion with respect to the problem offered by the site. We feel strongly that this large and dignified structure must have a setting suitable to the important function which it will have in the National Capital.

The Commission advised Mr. Olsen that it is our policy to require a marble exterior for this building and for all other structures erected along East Capitol Street.

It was further suggested that this structure would be enhanced by the use of more sculptural decoration that was shown in the first drawings submitted today.

For the Commission of Fine Arts,

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman
Messrs. Eggers and Higgins, Architects
542 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

I-1

COPY

July 8, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 1, 1941, approved the revised model for an eagle by Heinz Warneke, sculptor, submitted by your office and the Section of Fine Arts. It is understood the eagle will be approximately 8 feet high and that there will be one on the parapet at the east and west ends of the Social Security Building facing Independence Avenue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT J

July 1, 1941

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on July 1, 1941, approved the revised model for the design by Heinz Warneke, sculptor, submitted at your office and the section of the site. It is understood that the design will be approximately 1 foot high and that there will be one on the parapet at the east end and two on the Social Security Building facing Independence Avenue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Director, Fine Arts

Very truly yours,

Director

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D.C.

100-100000

COPY

July 1, 1941.

My dear Mr. Wyeth:

The sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts, Mr. Manship, reported at a meeting of the Commission held today that he inspected the ceramic by Waylande Gregory on the Municipal Center building on the afternoon of June 30th and found it to be an excellent example of ceramic art,--simple in design, the action vigorous, and the color scheme splendid. Mr. Manship complimented the artist upon his competence in executing this commission.

Mr. Manship considers this ceramic to be one of the best murals of its kind that has been done in recent years. He had the pleasure of conferring with Mr. Gregory concerning it while it was being made.

Circumstances did not permit the other members of the Commission of Fine Arts to see this ceramic today, but it is hoped arrangements can be made to do so at the next meeting of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Nathan C. Wyeth,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT K

July 1, 1941

My dear Mr. Wright:

The sculptor member of the Commission of Fine Arts, Mr. [Name], reported at a meeting of the Commission held today that he inspected the ceramic by [Name] by [Name] on the [Name] building on the afternoon of June 30th and found it to be an excellent example of ceramic art,--simple in design, the [Name] vigorous, and the color scheme splendid. Mr. [Name] complimented the artist upon his competence in executing this commission. Mr. [Name] considers this ceramic to be one of the best murals of its kind that has been done in recent years. He had the pleasure of conferring with Mr. Gregory concerning it while it was being made. Circumstances did not permit the other members of the Commission of Fine Arts to see this ceramic today, but it is hoped arrangements can be made to do so at the next meeting of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely, [Name]

William L. [Name]

[Name]

Hon. Nathan C. [Name]
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Washington, D. C.

INTERIOR BUILDING,
Washington, D.C.
June 27, 1941

Dear Mr. Simon:

Further reference is made to your letter of June 23 submitting elevations and location plan of a proposed temporary office building which it is desired to erect south of the Munitions Building, and requesting the approval of this Commission.

The Commission at its meeting on June 26 considered these plans and voted not to approve construction of the building proposed. It was the Commission's feeling that construction of this building would only further aggravate the acute parking and traffic problem in this area; that other sites, such as the War College grounds, under the jurisdiction of the War Department, were available; and that this site is altogether too near the Lincoln Memorial.

Studies made by the Commission of the traffic and parking conditions in the vicinity of the Navy and Munitions Buildings indicate that any further concentration of Government employees along this section of Constitution Avenue will so congest the avenue itself and important approaches thereto that it would not be in the interest of the Department to undertake the construction of this building or any other building south of Constitution Avenue. The Commission originally expressed its opposition to the construction of more than two penthouses on top of the Navy Building for the reasons above stated, and the present traffic congestion and pressure for parking space are the inevitable result of the present employee concentration. The Commission believes that any further concentration would not only be unwise and inefficient, but also a gross hazard to the employees themselves should any unforeseen event or emergency occur. In brief, the area is already saturated as to parking and traffic circulation.

Since the meeting of the Commission, your letter of June 25 has been received giving further information on the necessity for this building. While the Commission appreciates the difficult space problem facing the War Department, it does not believe that this is any justification for concentrating in a single area a building mass and a

EXHIBIT L

1. The first step in the process of the investigation is the identification of the problem. This is done by the investigator who is responsible for the investigation. The investigator must identify the problem and the scope of the investigation. This is done by the investigator who is responsible for the investigation. The investigator must identify the problem and the scope of the investigation.

working population beyond the capacity of that area to accommodate them, and creating undue problems in the protection of Government property and in the furnishing of necessary services such as cafeterias, etc., to its employees. The Commission has frequently emphasized in the past few years the necessity for anticipating just such an emergency as now before the War Department, and to this end has repeatedly urged the acquisition of land already authorized by Congress for public building sites. It would appear that the solution now suggested would only solve one problem by creating another, even more serious.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demaray,
Acting Executive Officer.

JM:HL

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COPY

July 2, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 25th with respect to certain temporary office buildings required by the War Department.

This Commission have reviewed the opinion of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission with respect to the erection of a temporary structure for offices for the War Department south of the Munitions Building, as contained in a letter addressed to you under date of June 27th by Mr. A. E. Demaray, Acting Executive Officer of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Commission of Fine Arts concur in the statements contained in that letter.

We are fully aware of the requirements of the War and Navy Departments for expansion and we recognize the need for having additional office space near existing permanent or semi-permanent buildings. We recognize, nevertheless, that even in these times there are additional factors which must be considered and we therefore are of the opinion that further study of the situation will indicate other ways and means whereby additional building and parking space may be afforded without encroaching upon park lands, resulting in the destruction of these important open spaces even if only for the period of the emergency.

The Commission of Fine Arts have no objection to the erection of buildings west of the new War Department building, listed as item "a", nor to the erection of a building west of the Naval Hospital, listed as item "b" in the letter of June 25th. For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency.

Exhibit L-1

Dear Sir,

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 29th.

With respect to the proposed extension of the term of the

for extension.

This Committee has been studying the subject of the extension of the

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Very truly yours,
John D. Smith,
Secretary.

Hon. Louis A. Howe,
Bureau of Education,
Public Buildings Administration,
Washington, D. C.

COPY

July 2, 1941.

My dear Mr. Lanham:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 1, 1941, considered the Bill you submitted with your letter of June 30th, H.R.5172, "A bill to create a Commission to investigate and report to the Congress the necessity, practicability, and feasibility of constructing a vehicular crossing or crossings of the Potomac River between the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia,-----".

The Commission recognize the great need for improved traffic facilities between the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia, and favor the enactment of this legislation if it meets with the approval of Congress.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Fritz G. Lanham, Chairman,
Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT M

1901, 1902

1901, 1902

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77TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5172

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1941

Mr. SMITH of Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

A BILL

To create a commission to investigate and report to the Congress the necessity, practicability, and feasibility of constructing a vehicular crossing or crossings of the Potomac River between the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia, and to determine the location or locations of such crossing or crossings, and the type of such crossing or crossings, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That a commission is hereby created, to consist of the Com-
4 missioner of the Public Roads Administration of the Federal
5 Works Agency or a representative of that Administration
6 to be designated by the Commissioner, the Governor of the

1 State of Virginia or a representative of the Governor to be
2 designated by him, the city manager of the city of Alexandria
3 or a representative to be designated by him, the county
4 manager of Arlington County or a representative to be designated by him, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia
5 or a representative of the Commissioners to be designated by
6 them, and a member of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission or a representative to be designated by that
7 Commission, for the purpose of investigating and reporting to
8 the Congress the necessity, practicability, and feasibility of
9 constructing a vehicular crossing or crossings of the Potomac
10 River between the District of Columbia and the State of
11 Virginia, and to determine the location or locations of such
12 crossing or crossings, and the type of such crossing or crossings; and there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the
13 the sum of \$25,000 for all necessary expenses incident to the
14 preparation of engineering studies and investigations, surveys,
15 and estimates together with preliminary plans. The commission shall report to the Congress as early as may be practicable and in any event not later than six months after
16 approval of this Act the result of such investigations, together with recommendations including a suggested plan for
17 the financing of the project.

A BILL

To create a commission to investigate and report to the Congress the necessity, practicability, and feasibility of constructing a vehicular crossing or crossings of the Potomac River between the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia, and to determine the location or locations of such crossing or crossings, and the type of such crossing or crossings, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SMITH of Virginia

JUNE 25, 1941

Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and
Grounds

COPY

July 8, 1941

My dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 1, 1941, received with thanks and appreciation a copy of the book you presented to the Commission entitled Heraldry in America, by Eugene Zieber. It is a book that will be found very useful in connection with the work of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

The Bailey, Banks & Biddle Company,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

EXHIBIT N

1911, 1912

1911, 1912

The Commission on the ...

July 1, 1911, ...

copy of the ...

Heretofore ...

that will be found ...

work of the Commission.

Very truly yours,

Chairman, Commission

W. B. ...

W. B. ...

1911

H. R. 5172